

## **SAVVA Technical Tip 139 – Repairing aluminium thermostat housings**

A year ago I was faced with the problem of a corroded top hose/thermostat housing. Why they make them out of such poor quality material only the manufacturers we will ever know. I recall trying to repair one using aluminium welding but because it was so old it just disintegrated. I had to import a replacement which meant the car was laid-up for many weeks – not to mention the cost.

This time I had to find an alternative as I needed to use the car on a forthcoming run. After asking around for inspiration, the local hardware shop suggested I tried using a product called Q-Bond which sets rock hard and can be used on aluminium.

Having little choice it was worth a try, so, I cleaned the corroded area with a wire brush and filled the affected area with this magic powder. One fills the affected area with the powder then drip what looks like super glues onto it. It sets rock hard and I was able to file it to shape within minutes.

I didn't expect it to be a permanent repair, however, if you can't get a replacement "van die rak af", you don't have much choice but to repair the old one even on a temporary basis. This temporary fix was over a year ago and recently I had to remove the top hose and the repair seems to be holding up very well. Incidentally, after the repair I filled the radiator with copious amounts of anti-corrosive additive (not antifreeze) to stop any further corrosion. This seems to have worked.

Note: I have subsequently imported a replacement housing but being inherently lazy I'm leaving the repaired one on the car - as the say let sleeping dogs lie.

Following is a photo of the fitting. The dark area is the Q Bond filling.



# **Q-Bond<sup>®</sup>**

**REPAIRS ALMOST  
ANYTHING!**

**ROCK HARD IN  
10 SECONDS!**

**ULTRA STRONG  
ADHESIVE  
&  
FILLING POWDERS**

